

## NEW USES FOR THE PERGOLA

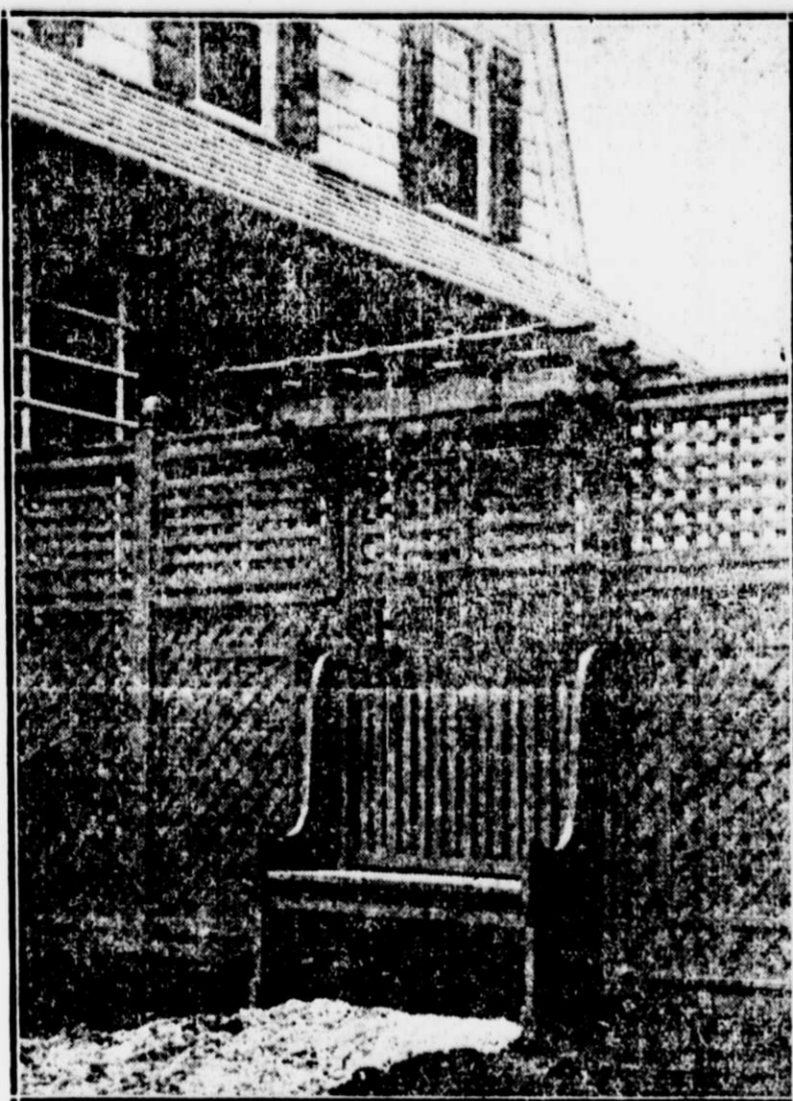
## IT HAS DONE MUCH TO CHANGE PLAZZA STYLES.

Pergolas Admit the Light More Freely—Origin of the Pergola Here—Some Examples of Its Varied Uses—An Italian Villa in New England Surroundings.

The enthusiastic patriots who write and talk so much about the national note in domestic architecture in this country will assuredly find in the use of the pergola a mighty support for their optimistic theories. It has come to be characteristic of American country homes built during recent years. In fact it has gone far toward supplanting that typical detail of the American country home, the piazza, to such an extent that it is almost possible to tell when a house was constructed from the presence of the piazza or the more recent substitute.

A pergola is of course in its simplest form any horizontal trellis supported on uprights, and pergolas were first found in Italy, although they date from the classical days of that country. They were sometimes attached to the house, and there are purists there who contend that a pergola is entitled to that name should in reality be built to the house. Of course such a definition would make the term pergola untruthful as applied to the arbors of many country gardens. One of the distinguishing characteristics of American acquisitiveness, however, is to use a form of foreign architecture in any way that seems appropriate and yet continue to describe it by the original name. This process has naturally amplified the meaning of many architectural terms, and pergola has probably been influenced by it more than some others.

A pergola built of rustic branches and straggling under its load of vine leaves away from the cottage of an Italian immigrant is just as truly a pergola as one that rears its stone or concrete columns by the side of a sylvan palace.



Aymar Embury, II.

PERGOLA HINTS FOR A GARDEN SEAT.

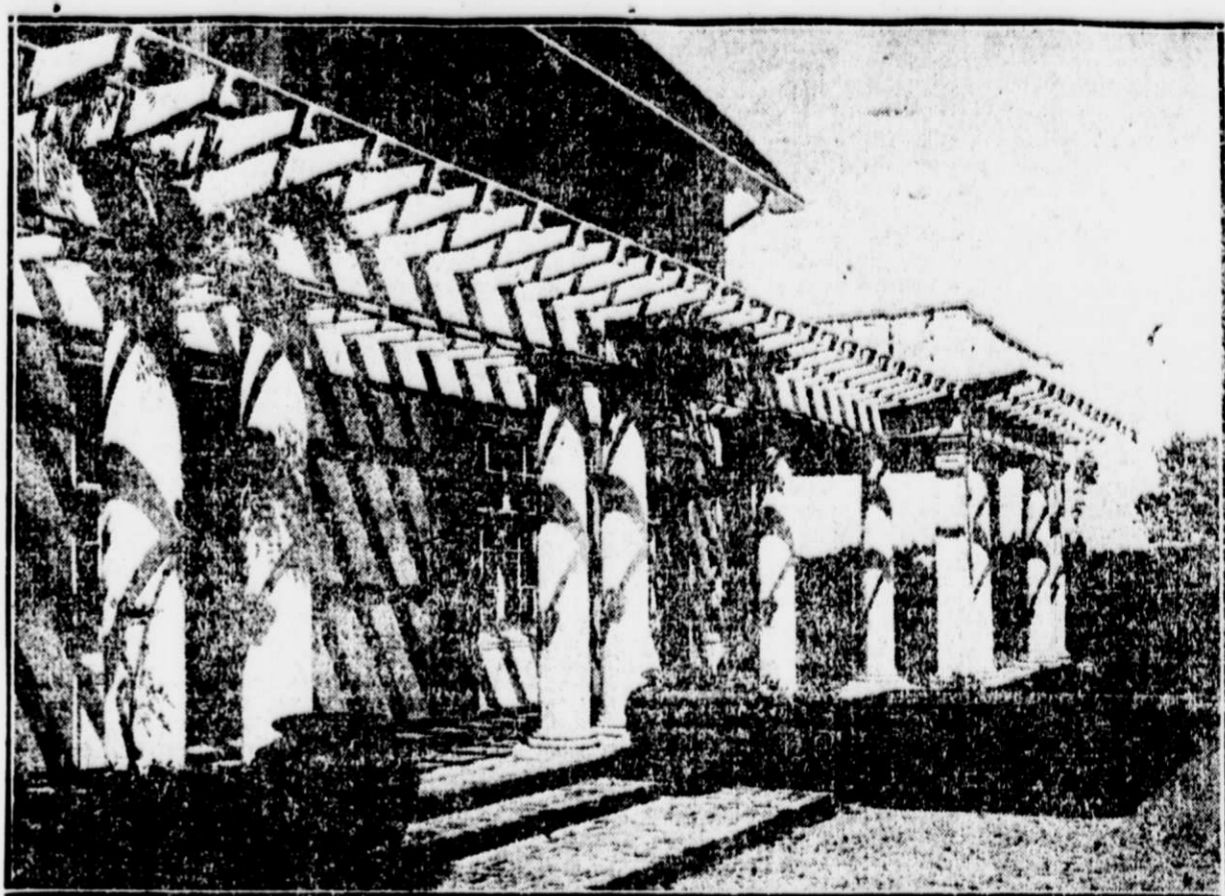
are pretty sure to be so carefully matched in draperies that the room is sure to be more or less dusky at all hours of the day. Another evidence of the national disinclination to have too much light may be found in the dark dining rooms of American homes. The fashion of turning out the lights and dining in the gloom that a few candles may but faintly dispel is confined altogether to this country.

This may possibly be traceable to the influence of the old fashioned piazza, and future generations with the adopted pergola as the substitute may really love light rooms, just as their ancestors at present profess to.

It is in the decorative aspect of the pergola, moreover, that the cause for much of its popularity now resides. It is possible to produce in this adopted form of the pergola much more artistic effects than the piazza would ever admit of without any suggestion of the bizarre or the eccentric. No piazza, for instance, submits so gracefully to the adornment that vines and flowers admit as the pergola.

There is, moreover, about no piazza the same effect of complete open air that one derives from the pergola. In these days there is a growing disposition to believe that it is better to sit altogether out of doors than to compromise by taking the air in a room that is so much covered as the piazza. There is, of course, less protection to the covering of the pergola so long as its roof is of natural growth only.

The pergola may follow the fashion of the house just as freely as the piazza. It may be made of brick, as the detached garden pergola published in the *Brick-builder* shows. This pergola could have been made a part of the house, of course, just as it is done in houses of any other material, and served the purpose of a piazza. In the case of the wooden houses, whether they be made of shingles or any other form of the same material, the pergola may be made just as suitable in that medium. Combinations of stone houses and stone pergolas are some-



Albro &amp; Lindeberg, Architects.

PIAZZA AND PERGOLA COMBINED ON A LONG ISLAND COUNTRY HOUSE.

times varied by making the pergola out of rough trees that have not been denuded of the bark and making the trellis from branches of the same wood in the natural state. Such a pergola, however, is rather limited in its propriety. It may be suited only to craftsman or other modern types of the bungalow that have

departed far from any ideals of rational architecture.

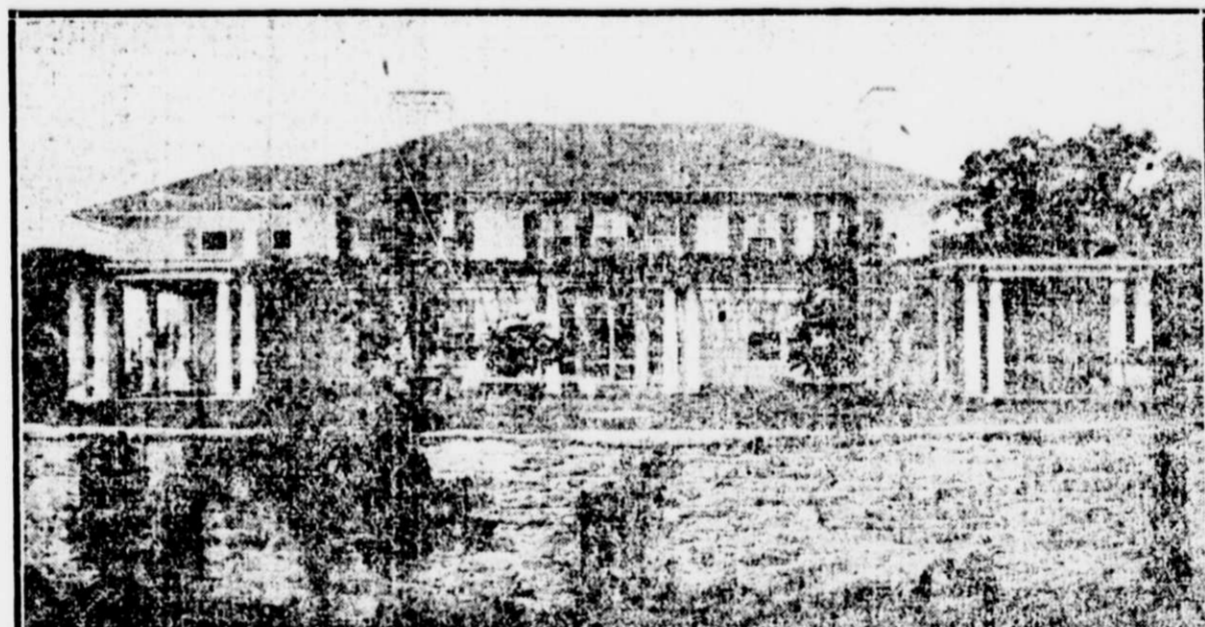
The pergola in the views of the residence of F. C. Culver at Hadlyme, Conn., possess an especial propriety in that the house represents one of C. A. Platt's most successful efforts to adapt the outlines of an Italian villa to a New England

into the broader piazzas. The pergola is of white painted wood, which is appropriate to the color scheme of the house. The growth, which will of course in time serve to furnish more of a roof, was in its beginnings when the picture was taken. Myron Hunt's house at Pasadena shows one advantage on which the Western



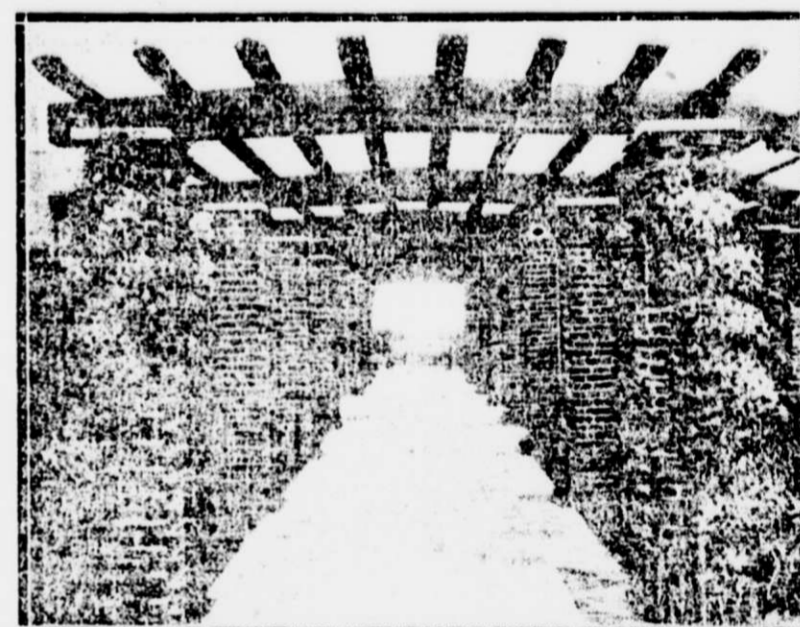
Myron Hunt, Architect.

PERGOLA AS PIAZZA ON A PASADENA HOME.



C. H. Platt, Architect.

PERGOLAS ON THE F. C. CULVER HOUSE AT HADLYME.



Page &amp; Frothingham, Architects.

A BRICK PERGOLA.

More often nowadays the pergola is attached to the house in just the way that the piazza used to be and serves the same purpose. Often it serves as a continuation of the piazza, but as it is usually narrower than the piazza, such use of the idea is less frequent. In the present lack of enthusiasm for the piazza—one can scarcely say that the feeling as yet amounts to rebellion—the pergola appeared an admirable substitute for the other out of door room.

There is of course the theory that

the vines which usually climb over these arbors will provide a more compact roof than the trellis makes possible. But while this may happen in Italy it does not occur here. They rarely become thick enough in this climate to serve every purpose of a roof. So it has not been regarded as opposed to the purpose of the pergola to utilize a kind of covering that provides more protection than would ever be possible from the vines. Between some of the trellises of the roof thick glass is placed

which does not keep out the light, while it does keep off the rain.

Perhaps its greatest usefulness as a substitute for the piazza may be found in this very plentiful lack of interference with the light. There is no denying the extent to which balconies have always darkened rooms. In spite of their protest against dark rooms, Americans are in fact not in the least opposed to them. They can even be said to have rather a liking for them. Whatever the height and breadth of windows may be, they



J. H. Freedlander, Architect.

PERGOLA PIAZZAS ON AN ELBERON HOUSE.

## PENNSYLVANIA'S REALTY COMPANY IS ONE OF THE BIG LANDOWNERS OF THE CITY.

It Holds Upward of 100 Plots Besides the Station Site They Were Used to Facilitate Tunneling and Brokers Wonder What Will Be Done With Them

The Pennsylvania Railroad is one of the largest real estate owners in this city. It owns more than 100 parcels, all of which have been acquired in the last eight or ten years. This figure does not include the station site, which in itself comprises nearly 275 city lots. The terminal site is appraised at upward of \$7,000,000, and the other nearby holdings of the company at some \$1,000,000.

The company owns property in almost every block in Thirty-second and Thirty-third streets from Ninth avenue eastward to the River, and in several blocks on Thirty-first and Thirty-fourth streets. With few exceptions most of these holdings were purchased to facilitate building the station and the tunnels that connect it with the outside world. Now that the terminal is finished and trains are running through the tubes to New Jersey and Long Island most of this property is of no further use. At least this is what real estate brokers think. They expect that the company will soon announce its readiness to sell some if not all. This belief is somewhat strengthened by the fact that the directors of the Pennsylvania held a meeting in this city several weeks ago. Although nothing definite

could be learned about the meeting, a representative of the road intimated that it was called for the purpose of putting a price on its realty.

The company owns some of the largest and most valuable plots near the station. Directly opposite the main entrance on Seventh avenue it owns the block front from Thirty-second to Thirty-third street, together with about 600 feet of frontage on the side streets. This property is probably the most valuable in the Pennsylvania district. The company wants \$3,500,000 for it. It has, according to brokers, refused several offers of \$3,000,000. Charles P. Taft, brother of the President, formed a company to buy the property about a year ago. The company had almost closed the deal, it was said, when something turned up which ended the negotiations. Mr. Taft and his company shortly afterward acquired the McAlpin plot on the west side of Broadway from Thirty-third to Thirty-fourth street, upon which a twenty-two story hotel is now being erected.

Mr. Taft is by no means the only capitalist that has wanted this plot for a hotel site. Almost every big hotel man in the country, it would seem, has made inquiries for the site. For this reason it is believed the site will eventually be improved with a tall hotel. The location is well suited for an improvement of this sort. Seventh avenue is rapidly developing into an important thoroughfare and Thirty-second and Thirty-third streets are two of the leading arteries connecting Broadway with the new station.

From the shape of the plot it was first thought that the company proposed using it as a great piazza to the main entrance of the station. But the company had no such artistic intentions. It purchased the plot as the starting point for the tubes which connect the station with Long Island City. The tubes were built in sections, which necessitated the sinking of shafts along the route at intervals of two or three blocks. As the shafts could not be sunk in the center of the street private property had to be acquired for the purpose.

On Thirty-second street the company bought ten parcels which the city appraised last year at a little less than \$100,000. On East Thirty-third street the company bought three parcels for shafts. There is no reason for the company holding these any longer and no doubt they will be the first to be put on the market when the directors decide to dispose of the company's surplus realty. As the tunnel runs under these parcels they will very likely be restricted to buildings of a limited height. Those are the chief parcels most of the station owned by the company.

All the rest of the ninety-eight scattered lots held by the Pennsylvania Real Estate Company, a holding company for the Pennsylvania, are most of just north or south of the station. On the south side of Thirty-fourth street the Pennsylvania company holds title to all the property from No. 28 to 218, eleven lots covered with three-story dwellings and the old First Presbyterian Church. The church has been used by the company as a poker house and converted into a plant. The city values the company's holdings here at \$1,000,000. A street is to run through this property to connect with the Thirty-third street entrance of the station.

Most of the property on Thirty-third street, facing the station, is owned by the railroad company. It holds title to twenty-nine parcels there which the city values at \$408,000.

In Thirty-second street all the property including the roadway from Seventh to Fourth avenue is owned by the railroad. Fourth avenue is owned by the railroad. On the block between Thirty-first and Thirty-third streets, Seventh and Eighth avenues, is the new station, and on the two blocks just to the west the new post office is being erected.

What the company proposes to do with Thirty-second street and the property adjoining it between Ninth and Tenth avenues has not yet developed. The company owns both sides of Thirty-second street between these avenues, and all of the west frontage on Ninth avenue down to Thirty-third street. On Thirty-first street this plot runs back 200 feet. The property is vacant. It comprises about eighty full city lots, fronting 326 feet on Ninth avenue, 200 feet on Thirty-first street, 236 feet on Tenth avenue and is 500 feet long.

On the south side of Thirty-first street between Seventh and Eighth avenues the company owns the entire block with the exception of a few lots near the corners. In the center of the block the Pennsylvania has a power house 185 by 100 feet. This, like the old church on Thirty-fourth street, was used to generate power for the steam drills and other machinery used in the construction of the station. As the station is finished the company apparently has no further use for either of these plants. It is thought that both will be disposed of.

owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

Street	Number	Area	Value
Seventh avenue	200 to 210	10,000	\$24,000
Seventh avenue	401 to 412	10,000	25,000
Thirty-first street	100 to 150	10,000	25,000
Thirty-first street	200 to 250	10,000	25,000
Thirty-first street	300 to 350	10,000	25,000
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Thirty-third street	200 to 250	10,000	25,000
Thirty-third street	300 to 350	10,000	25,000
Thirty-third street	400 to 450	10,000	25,000
Thirty-third street	500 to 550	10,000	25,000
Thirty-third street	600 to 650	10,000	25,000
Thirty-third street	700 to 750	10,000	25,000
Thirty-third street	800 to 850	10,000	25,000
Thirty-third street	900 to 950	10,000	25,000
Thirty-third street	1,000 to 1,050	10,000	25,000
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